



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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**August 3, 2005**

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**FOR INFORMATION: Justina Ferber, 240-777-7938 or 240-777-7900**  
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## **APPLICANTS SOUGHT FOR MERIT SYSTEM PROTECTION BOARD**

**DEADLINE OCTOBER 19, 2005**

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The Montgomery County Council is accepting applications from qualified voters of the County for appointment to a three-year term on the Merit System Protection Board. Generally, the Board is expected to protect the Merit System and to protect employee and applicant rights guaranteed under the County Merit System.

The term of Board member Mary Lamary (declined to affiliate) will expire in December 2005. Ms. Lamary has indicated that she will apply for reappointment. The appointee must be a Republican, or decline to affiliate with a party, or a member of another party officially recognized by the Board of Elections. By law, no more than two of the three members of the Merit System Protection Board may be of the same political party. Present Board members are: Harold Kessler (Democrat), Rodella E. Berry (Democrat), and Mary A. Lamary (declined to affiliate).

The County Merit System Protection Board's mission is to oversee the Merit System for the protection of employee's and applicant's rights guaranteed under the Merit System. There are two methods in which the Board processes appeals: 1) a written decision issued after a review and discussion of a written record; 2) a written decision issued after a pre-hearing conference and a formal hearing in cases involving a suspension, demotion, or dismissal. The Board, on a periodic basis, conducts special studies, audits or inquiries of the administration of the merit and retirement pay systems and, in this effort, may compel the attendance of witnesses. Written reports of its findings and recommendations are filed with the County Executive and the County Council. The Board also provides comments on any proposed changes in the Merit System law or regulations.

The Board normally meets for approximately four hours in the evening once every two weeks. In addition, the Board holds hearings during the day, which can take the full day or be scheduled for the evening. Additional time is also required for preparatory work. Members of this Board receive \$6,859, which is adjusted annually to reflect 50% of the percentage change in the Washington Area Consumer Price Index.

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The appointment is for three years. Section 403 of the County Charter states in part **"...No member shall hold political office or participate in any campaign for any political or public office during the member's term of office."** Members of County boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time.

Letters of application are made public as part of the appointment process. Letters expressing interest, including a resume listing professional and civic experience, should be addressed to Council President Thomas E. Perez, Montgomery County Council, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850. **Applications must be received in the Council office by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 19, 2005.**

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